

**Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival hosts the
Book Launch of 'Chanakya's New Manifesto: To Resolve the Crisis within
India' by Pavan K. Varma**

Kolkata, 11th January, 2013: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2013 hosted the launch of 'Chanakya's New Manifesto: To Resolve the Crisis within India' by celebrated writer and diplomat Pavan K. Varma. Presented in association with Aleph, the book launch was followed by an in-depth conversation with Dr. Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Editor, Editorial Pages, The Telegraph, on the practical and detailed blueprint of building an inclusive society.

The latest book of Pavan K. Varma essays how Chanakya, India's greatest classical thinker and teacher would have confronted with the various crises that beset contemporary India. The question of how the model of Arthashastra instituted by the ancient philosopher, can be used to resolve issues pertaining to the reform and change in the governance of the nation is discerningly used as a central theme for his book.

'Chanakya's New Manifesto' is both a call to action as well as a deeply insightful account of the challenges facing the country today. The book is a must read for everybody with a stake in India's future. Whether it is laying the foundation for an independent and effective Lokpal, or decriminalizing politics and successfully weeding out the corrupt, the solutions he proposes are substantive, well within the constitutional framework, and can make all the difference between intent and action.

The author also shared his experience and inspiration that he derived to compile the book. It was an enriching experience for the young audience who attended the session, which gave them an insight on the future of the country, and their role in building society.

About Pavan K Varma:

Pavan K. Varma studied history at St. Stephen's College, Delhi and took a degree in law from Delhi University. A member of the Indian Foreign Service, he has served in Moscow, in New York at the Indian Mission to the United Nations, in London, where he was Director of the Nehru Centre, and as India's High Commissioner in Cyprus and Ambassador in Bhutan. Pavan K. Varma's books include Ghalib: The Man, The Times; Krishna: The Playful Divine; The Great Indian Middle Class; The Book of Krishna and Being Indian: Why the 21st Century Will Be India's, all published by Penguin. He has also translated Gulzar (Selected Poems), Kaifi Azmi (Selected Poems), and Atal Bihari Vajpayee (21 Poems) into English for Penguin.

About Rudrangshu Mukherjee:

Rudrangshu Mukherjee is an Indian historian and author. His D.Phil. in Modern History at the University of Oxford in 1981 was based on his acclaimed thesis on the revolt of 1857, which presented a view of the revolt from the native perspective. The cover illustration of his book was drawn by Satyajit Ray. He has revisited this theme in his books including *Awadh in Revolt 1857-58: A Study of Popular Resistance*, *Spectre of Violence: The 1857 Kanpur Massacres (Delhi, 1988)*, which tries to re-frame the popular colonial image of the massacres, and *Mangal Pandey: Brave Martyr or Accidental Hero*. Mukherjee has taught history at the University of Calcutta and held visiting appointments at Princeton University, the University of Manchester and the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has edited *The Penguin Gandhi Reader* (Delhi, 1993) and is the author of the *Art of Bengal: A Vision Defined, 1955-75* (Kolkata, 2003), and co-edited *Trade and Politics and the Indian Ocean World: Essays in Honour of Ashin Das Gupta* (Delhi, 1998).

About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) 2013:

A Community initiative by the Apeejay Surrendra Group, the annual literary festival hosted since 2010 in Kolkata is the first international literary festival in Kolkata, a city celebrated for its intellectual depth and cultural heritage. An array of special curated discussions, performances and some of the finest literary events are scheduled for the fourth edition from 9th- 13th January, 2013. A noteworthy literary and cultural representation from across India and overseas will be seen at the Festival, amongst the finest minds from India and overseas. Prominent personalities attending will be Ramachandra Guha, William Dalrymple, Shyam Benegal, Pavan Varma, Yasmin Ali Bhai Brown, Amit Chaudhuri, Leila Seth, Manil Suri, Ruchir Joshi, Onir, Urvashi Butalia, Shobhaa De and Tishani Doshi and several others. Events are scheduled at significant cultural and heritage venues across Kolkata like National Library, St John's Church, banks of Hooghly, Lascar Monument, and at India's finest and most loved 92 year old iconic bookstore- Oxford Bookstore, Kolkata. Amongst the many highlights is Festival's collaboration with the Tibor-Jones South Asia Prize to recognize and encourage new and emerging writers in the South Asian region.

For event videos & pictures Log On to <http://www.aklf.in/>

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